



Milwaukee County

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

May 20, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

SUPERVISOR WEISHAN STATEMENT ON PENSION PAYMENT FROM MERCER, INC.

Mercer presented incorrect information to County Board in 2000

Milwaukee, WI –Milwaukee County Supervisor John. F. Weishan, Jr., has released the following statement in response to Mercer Inc.'s decision to pay Milwaukee County \$45 million to end claims relating to the cost of employee pension enhancements approved in 2000.

“This outcome shows that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors was indeed given the wrong information when voting on pension enhancements in 2000. Had Supervisors been presented the accurate information, I am certain the plan would not have been approved. Despite Mercer’s claim of ‘no wrongdoing’ and its contention that the lawsuit ‘had no merit,’ the decision to pay Milwaukee County \$45 million proves their guilt. In light of this payment, it appears Mercer believed that the jury would have sided with Milwaukee County. It was important for Milwaukee County to accept this payment offer from Mercer due to the uncertainties of a jury trial.

“The untold story is that of the elected officials who were ridiculed in the local media. It is unfortunate that they and their families suffered through the recall process that ensued during this difficult time in 2002. With this payment from Mercer, the record should now reflect that the County Board made a decision based on information that we now know was incorrect. We must remember that County Board Supervisors are everyday citizens elected to represent their neighbors. They don’t necessarily have actuarial experience. Instead, they must rely on information and analysis from advisers and consultants in making their decisions. In this case, the information was inaccurate and inadequate. While this vote may have been regrettable, it should be noted for the record that Mercer, Inc. was truly to blame, not the County Board.”

###